

CO-MORBIDITIES FOR HIV/AIDS: STDs IN MARYLAND

HIV/AIDS is often associated with sexually transmitted diseases. STD data serve as a valuable source of information for three main reasons. First, HIV can be transmitted through sexual intercourse; second, STDs can serve as indicators of high-risk sexual behavior that is associated with an increased risk of HIV infection; and third, some STDs, such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis, produce lesions that can facilitate the transmission of HIV.

- Infection with other STDs can increase the risk of new HIV infections two to five-fold by facilitating HIV transmission.¹
- Among states reporting STDs in 2002, Maryland had the 3rd highest rate of syphilis (4.3 cases/100,000 population), the 10th highest rate of gonorrhea (176.6 cases/ 100,000 population), and the 16th highest rate of chlamydia (318.9 cases/100,000 population).²
- Among the 20 cities that were most burdened by STDs in 1999, the CDC reported that Baltimore City had the 3rd highest rate of syphilis (38.1 cases/100,000 population), the highest rate of gonorrhea (948.6 cases /100,000 population), and the 5th highest rate of chlamydia (818.8 cases /100,000 population) in the nation.³
- The STD Division of DHMH reports a decline in the rate of syphilis cases from 17.4 (in 1997) to 5.6 per 100,000 population (in 2003). Primary and secondary cases of syphilis decreased by 53% from 1998-2003.

STD Cases and Incidence Rates (per 100,000) by County for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis in 2003

COUNTY	Chlamydia		Gonorrhea		Syphilis	
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
Allegany	107	143.8	33	44.4	2	2.7
Anne Arundel	911	180.5	343	67.3	5	1.0
Baltimore City	6,486	1000.9	4,000	617.2	151	23.3
Baltimore County	1,941	251.5	790	102.2	55	7.1
Calvert	163	199.4	35	42.8	2	2.4
Caroline	108	353.0	31	101.3	1	3.3
Carroll	82	50.3	24	14.7	2	1.2
Cecil	82	89.5	18	18.5	0	0.0
Charles	344	261.5	107	79.8	1	0.8
Dorchester	76	245.0	31	99.9	0	0.0
Frederick	254	120.4	69	33.2	0	0.0
Garrett	10	33.4	1	3.3	0	0.0
Harford	403	175.7	124	54.9	8	3.5
Howard	248	93.7	107	38.2	2	0.8
Kent	48	233.2	13	63.2	0	0.0
Montgomery	998	108.6	259	28.3	14	1.5
Prince George's	3,212	384.9	1,540	186.0	65	7.8
Queen Anne's	46	105.7	29	66.6	0	0.0
Saint Mary's	173	189.8	65	71.3	0	0.0
Somerset	148	592.9	60	240.4	0	0.0
Talbot	71	201.2	17	48.2	0	0.0
Washington	400	291.6	150	109.3	2	1.5
Wicomico	447	503.1	187	210.5	0	0.0
Worcester	146	292.7	34	68.2	0	0.0
TOTAL	16,904	306.8	8,067	146.4	311	5.6

For more information on sexually transmitted diseases, contact the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Sexually Transmitted Diseases at 410-767-6688.

¹ Fleming DT, Wasserheit JH. 1999. From Epidemiological Synergy to Public Health Policy and Practice: The Contribution of Other Sexually Transmitted Diseases to Sexual Transmission of HIV Infection. *Sexually Transmitted Infection*;75:3-17.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). September 2003. Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2002. Atlanta, GA: U. S. Department of Health and Human Services.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2000. Tracking the Hidden Epidemics: Trends in STDs in the United States, 2000. U. S. Department of Health and Human Services.